

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 247525  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP  
APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT  
S/S-O:MMCCALLIE

-----012653 290341Z /66

O 282119Z SEP 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T STATE 247525

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT AMMAN 07562 ACTION SECSTATE  
INFO CAIRO DAMASCUS JIDDA KUWAIT  
JERUSALEM TEL AVIV 27 SEP 78.

QUOTE: S E C R E T AMMAN 07652

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: JO, SY, US, XF  
SUBJECT: ASSAD VISIT

1. CHIEF OF ROYAL COURT SHARAF GAVE ME FOLLOWING RUNDOWN  
OF ASSAD VISIT SEPTEMBER 26.

2. ASSAD AS SPOKESMAN OF THE "STEADFASTNESS AND CONFRON-  
TATION BLOC" TOOK EXTREMELY HARD LINE AS EXPECTED REGARD-  
ING THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS. HE SAID THEY REPRESENTED  
ALLIANCE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WITH U.S. BACKING.  
UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES HE BELIEVED IT WAS NECESSARY TO GET  
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THE SOVIETS "INVOLVED". IN THIS RESPECT, HE ALSO NOTED  
THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH THE CUBANS, ADDING HE  
ALSO WOULD BE "INVOLVED" IN SOUTH YEMEN. SHARAF INTER-  
JECTED AT THIS POINT THAT ASSAD TO SOME EXTENT WAS  
ENGAGING IN "SCARE TACTICS" AND WAS WELL AWARE THAT JOR-  
DANIANS WOULD PASS THIS ON TO US.

3. ASSAD ADAMANTLY MAINTAINED THAT SYRIA WOULD NEVER SIT IN ANY ARAB LEAGUE FORUM WITH EGYPT. HE ADVOCATED VARIOUS MEANS OF FORMALLY DEALING EGYPT OUT OF THE ARAB WORLD, E.G. DISSOLUTION OF THE ARAB LEAGUE, ADHERENCE OF ALL TRUE ARAB BROTHERS TO THE DAMASCUS BLOC, OR CREATION OF NEW ARAB LEAGUE, OR SOMETHING LIKE IT, SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDING EGYPT.

4. ASSAD "GAVE HIS POINT OF VIEW" ON THE TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE. IN THIS RESPECT, HE MADE CLEAR THAT HE TOLD VANCE SYRIA REJECTED U.S. INTERPRETATION OF CAMP DAVID ACCORDS. IN CONTEXT THIS PRESENTATION, SHARAF NOTED THAT ASSAD ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT REJECTING PEACE PROCESS IN GENEVA CONTEXT. SHARAF NOTED THAT THIS WAS THE ONLY TIME ASSAD SHOWED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY AND WAS ACTING MORE AS THE PRESIDENT OF SYRIA THAN THE LEADER OF THE "DAMASCUS BLOC".

5. IN REPLY, HUSSEIN EXPLAINED THE JORDANIAN POSITION ALONG FAMILIAR LINES. HE PARTICULARLY MADE CLEAR THAT WHILE JORDAN HAD SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, JORDAN WAS NOT CLOSING ANY OPTIONS. HE EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WITH SECRETARY VANCE FOCUSED ON THE NEED FOR ANSWERS FROM THE U.S. TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS WHICH JORDAN WOULD BE PROPOSING TO US. AT THIS POINT, ASSAD MADE THE COMMENT THAT SINCE ALL ARABS  
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REJECTED THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, THERE WAS NO PURPOSE TO FURTHER CLARIFICATION FROM THE U.S. HUSSEIN STATED THAT ASSAD WAS WRONG IN STATING ALL ARABS REJECTED THE CAMP DAVID ACCORDS, NOTING THAT IN JORDAN THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE WHO SINCERELY SAW POSITIVE ELEMENTS IN THE ACCORDS. HUSSEIN ALSO SAID THAT ALL WEST BANKERS HAD NOT RPT NOT REJECTED THE ACCORDS, NOTING THAT THIS WAS SUBJECT OF IMPORTANT DEBATE ALSO IN WEST BANK. IT WAS, THEREFORE, HUSSEIN EXPLAINED, INCUMBENT UPON HIM TO OBTAIN AS MUCH CLARIFICATION AND INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE IN DIALOGUE WITH U.S. IN ORDER THAT HE AND HIS PEOPLE COULD HAVE BEST POSSIBLE BASIS FOR MAKING DECISIONS. SHARAF NOTED THAT ASSAD WAS QUITE SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT WEST BANK OPINION WAS NOT UNANIMOUSLY AGAINST ACCORDS. (NOTE: MIN OF EDUCATION MAJALI CONFIRMS THIS EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE.)

6. SHARAF SAID ASSAD'S ITINERARY FOR FOLLOWING VISITS WAS AS FOLLOWS: SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, EAST GERMANY AND USSR.

7. SHARAF SAID DISCUSSIONS CONFIRMED HIS VIEW PREVIOUSLY EXPRESSED TO ME THAT DAMASCUS BLOC ALREADY HAD REACHED

OUTER LIMITS OF MEMBERSHIP. EXTREMISM OF POSTURE RE EGYPT AND OBVIOUS FLIRTATIONS WITH SOVIETS ARE TWO FACTORS BEST CALCULATED TO ENSURE BLOC IS NOT VIEWED WITH ANY SYMPATHY AT ALL IN SAUDI ARABIA, FOR EXAMPLE. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION, SHARAF SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT IF ASSAD WOULD REPEAT "THREATS" RE SOVIETS, CUBANS AND SOUTH YEMEN IN RIYADH. HE SPECULATED ASSAD MIGHT JUST RELY ON JORDANIANS AND OTHERS TO ASSURE THIS REACHED SAUDI EARS.

8. COMMENT: AT LEAST IN PART, SHARAF'S VERSION OF ASSAD-HUSSEIN TALKS IS DESIGNED TO OFFSET IMPACT IN WASHINGTON OF HUSSEIN'S AIRPORT REMARKS NOTING CLOSE IDENTIFY OF VIEWS WITH SYRIA RE DEFICIENCIES OF CAMP DAVID ACCORDS. THRUST OF PRESENTATION OF HUSSEIN'S REMARKS HOWEVER IS CONSISTENT  
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WITH GENERAL JORDANIAN POSITION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT WITH EXCEPTION OF VERY BRIEF TIME WHEN KING AND ASSAD WENT UP-STAIRS TO GREET QUEEN, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN PRESENCE OF FULL DELEGATION.

9. I MAY HAVE DETECTED A NOTE OF PIQUE IN SHARAF'S DESCRIPTION OF ASSAD'S ONWARD TRAVEL, SUGGESTING HUSSEIN WAS NOT OVERJOYED AT PROSPECT OF HAVING TO DELAY HIS OWN VISIT TO RIYADH IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE TO A PRIOR VISIT BY ASSAD. IT MIGHT BE JUST AS WELL FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW TO HAVE ASSAD OFFER "STEADFASTNESS AND CONFRONTATION" BLOC TO SAUDIS AS ALTERNATIVE TO COOPERATION WITH U.S. PRIOR TO HUSSEIN VISIT. END COMMENT. VELIOTES  
UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014